



Cheshire East Shadow Cared For Children and Care Leavers Committee September 2025



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Participation and the Children's Services Improvement Plan

Actions include:

- Develop and improve Independence Packs
- Be part of corporate parenting workstreams – good homes for all, good education and skills, good health and wellbeing
- Develop and review the local offer with young people

Care Leavers – Independence Packs

- Participation Team and Care Leaver Service along with the Care Leaver Ambassadors and partner agencies such as health are delivering sessions and redesigning the independence packs.
- Weekly sessions have been delivered in Macclesfield and Crewe Care Leaver hubs.
- Sessions were focussed on with young people to update the design, wording, format and evidence collection methods.

Independence Packs – the changes that have been made

- Themed independence pack e.g. “travel”, “finance”, “health” rather than “bronze, silver, gold”.
- The format – young people will be able to upload evidence in a format that works for them. Such as pictures, videos, audio, written text.
- The difference this makes for young people is that they develop the skills needed, rather than what is required in a bronze, silver, gold package. The pack is more engaging and young person led.
- There will be a design update, and new independence pack programme launched in the hubs in Crewe and Macclesfield in January 2026. This will be co-delivered by the Care Leaver Service and partner agencies in the hubs and one to one if required.

Cared For Children and Young People

Young people at My VOICE and our Cared for Children Activity Days through the summer have been working on:

- Developing a pen picture profile project – young people feel that professionals know everything about them, but they would like to break the ice and improve relationships with their corporate parents by finding out more about them.
- Sharing views and experiences with Leaders Unlocked on Cyber Crime to be shared in Cheshire Youth Commission's Big Conversation.
- Taking part in fun and targeted activities including cooking, bushcraft, arts and crafts, water sports.

What's next?

- Care Leavers and the Ambassadors are planning with staff National Care Leaver Month in November 2025, activities include Local Offer Review, social activities, themed workshops, launching the Care Leaver Survey, Takeover Day and young people co-delivering training to staff.
- Christmas celebration for Care Leavers in December
- Star Celebration Day in November
- Discussions due to take place to find out if young people would like Care Experience to be a protected characteristic in Cheshire East
- November Children's Rights Month annual campaign themed around safe spaces for children and young people and "article 31" of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Any Questions?

